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Newsletter

Number 03

20 February 2015



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

... to those parents who have already put their hands up to help out with the forthcoming gala day ... this is very much appreciated!

... Kym Hare, Lee McGrath, Jenny and Ray Wiegersma (and others) for very generous donations of food items for last week's senior camp.

... To those who attended this week's whanau meeting.

... To those who have offered to help with next week's swimming trials.

... To those awesome people who have offered to help with pool water testing ... Jim will contact you soon.

People of the week

... Year 7 and 8's ... commendations on your manners, commitment, team work and thoughtfulness while on camp continue to flow in to the school. Most event facilitators commented that they had NEVER dealt with such a focussed and well-mannered school.

... Robert whose persistent efforts to encourage a nervous classmate on their harbour bridge walk were noted by others. Well done Robert.

... Alex who found and returned another child's precious countdown cards this week. Well done Alex!

Incredible Years Programme .. for parents of children ages 3-8

Recently parents received an invitation to participate in the Incredible Years Programme. This is a highly acclaimed programme and we may not get the opportunity to host this again. People who have done this programme before say it was fantastic, and that it gave them a whole new perspective on their children, and on how to manage challenging behaviours.

Involves **one morning a week, not 2 as earlier advised** (10:00 to 12:30) for 14 weeks. If you would like the flyer please email Kevin principal@matarau.school.nz. If you have lost your expression of interest form just email your interest to Kevin or phone the school office. **No cost to parents!!!!**

Term calendar

More to follow as dates come to hand!

23 Feb	Swimming trials
23/24 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
26 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
3 March	Junior Swimming Sports (years 1-3)
10 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
17 March	Year 4-6 Summer Sports Tournament
24 March	Year 7-8 Summer Sports Tournament
2 April	Final day of term

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

During Interviews parents can help by ..

- .. noting down any questions beforehand and bringing these with you
- .. arriving on time and departing on the bell (the last thing teachers want is to seem rude but, if we don't ALL move on the bell, things can get in something of a tangle).
- .. making a follow-up appointment to discuss issues which may take some time to discuss

Learning Support Programme

Please note that Mrs Walker will be available to speak with parents of children in her Learning Support Programme from 2:30 PM until 4:00 PM on Monday 23 February. If your child is in this programme, and you would like to discuss her impressions and anticipated next steps, or if interested in how you might support the programme, please give Mrs Walker a call on Monday morning (before mid-day) to arrange a time, or drop by during these times on the off chance. Of course, Mrs Walker is available at other times by appointment.

Needing assistance with ipads?

During interviews (both days) Mr Delemare will be stationed in the library to assist parents with such things as ... setting up restrictions, how to download apps, questions about itunes, clarification of matters on our cyber safety forms, guided access (how to know what your child is doing), technical questions etc. Parents are invited to drop by on their way to or from interviews. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, you need to bring your child's ipad, have already set up an itunes account, and have your passwords handy. We plan to run a parent workshop in early T2 but are here to help at any time.

Early Buses – early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 23 & 24 February due to parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30pm please on these days. Please note that bus times may vary on these days due to unpredictable loadings.

Smart Words books and Maths Whizz Subscriptions

Our fault! We realise that our initial payment request notice sent to families seemed to suggest that the Smart Words and Maths Whizz subscriptions were optional. The former pays for a personal copy of the next spelling book for your children which they write in and keep (\$10 for the year), the latter pays for your child's personal annual subscription to Maths Whizz (\$33 annual subscription, around \$300 per child if you register personally).

We are really sorry this was unclear. If you did not pay for these items with your activity fee earlier in the year please forward payment at your convenience. If not sure please don't hesitate to phone the school office.

Have Fun Learning/Practising Te Reo

On Monday from the 2 March there will be a weekly opportunity to learn, waiata(song), te reo(Maori language) and tikanga(customs). No matter your current level you may attend to begin learning. For those who have knowledge it is an opportunity to develop tuakana- teina relationships - a mentoring role, and to practise speaking te reo. This is available to both the students and their families. Expressions of interest to Sue Abbott via email, sabbott@matarau.school.nz, on the Matarau Whanau Facebook page, or via the office. The wananga/sessions will run from 3:15 - 4:15pm. Venue to be confirmed next Friday when there has been an indication of numbers attending.

Public Health Nurse .. forthcoming vaccinations

Our public health nurse will facilitate immunisation talks and question times in the school staffroom on Friday 27 February for all interested parents. Sessions will be as follows ...

- ... 2:00 PM Year 7 booster vaccination
- ... 2:30 PM Year 8 girls HPV vaccination
- ... Any questions to Mrs Donaldson please.

International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. Last year a significant number of children did few or no practice tests in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible on-board for these - but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

Learning Support Programmes

It is absolutely crucial that children awarded slots in learning support programmes (e.g. Mrs Comrie for literacy, Mrs Walker for maths etc.) take full advantage of these opportunities. These programmes are expensive and of limited duration and so we need the quickest shifts in the shortest time. In many cases children are placed not because they are at a critical point in their learning, but because we believe that specific interventions now will accelerate them in their learning with benefits down the track. All of these programmes have quite significant home learning loads. So ... if you have not yet done so, please ensure set times and places are allocated for home learning and please ensure that all assigned tasks are completed by the next day. A number of children have turned up to classes this week without having completed assigned tasks. Any questions can be directed to the relevant teacher.

In brief ... from last week

- ... please advise the office by 2:45 if your child will not be on their customary bus
- ... please drop off and pick up children from the upper car park or lower bus bay if possible
- ... a reminder 20kph passing parked buses and 40kph passing the school
- ... no children at school please before 8:00 AM
- ... please advise the school office next week any changes in contact, medical or address details
- ... please ensure you connect with the office over the next week to ensure that any medications we hold are current
- ... swimming togs each day please
- ... if able to help for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour with Monday or Friday lunches, or able to pick up pies from Kamo on Friday mornings on way to school please phone Helen in the office.
- ... please arrange for purchase of stationery items asap ... all items can be purchased from the office.
- ... children bringing cellphones to school must drop these to the school office each day please.
- ... please ensure your child brings their sunhat to school each day.

Junior Swimming Sports 2015 - A Special Invitation

You are invited to our special junior swimming sports for year 1-3 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 3rd March. Please note this is a different day to the middle and senior swimming sports day.

The main aims for the day are to celebrate improvement, participate and have fun!

Programme

Swimming races in year groups - these will be held in a relay style - non competitive fashion.

Year 3 - length swimmers races

Year 3 - width swimmers races

Year 2 - length swimmers races

Year 2 - width swimmers races

Year 1 - width swimmers races

We are looking forward to having lots of fun and to celebrating how much the children have improved in swimming this year. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

Countdown Cards

Quite educational, but probably safest left at home. Thanks!

Car park safety

Please take extra care not to block entry, drop off and exit to/in/from the school car park. The car park can get a bit congested and parents are asked to keep cars moving (safely) please, especially at the busiest times.

School Gala Day 14 March

Gala days are a great way to raise much needed funds and to foster community connections. On 14 March (9:00-1:00) we will host Matarau School's first fundraising gala. As with all such events, the support of our community is crucial. Please support by spreading the word, volunteering to help on the day (or before) and with donation of items.

So ... please pencil in 14 March and plan to be there. Let extended family know and help us to make this an absolutely fun filled day.

If anyone is happy to display an A4 gala flyer in their car window please see the ladies at the school office.

We also require supermarket shopping bags for sold items. If you have an excess of these and would be happy to donate them to the Gala, please drop them at the school office or to the school hall on 5th March.

Gala plea from teachers

Please contact any of the following teachers **NEXT WEEK** if you think you might be able to help. All offers will be very gratefully received.

Teacher Can you help these classes/ teachers?	Assistance needed with ...	When e.g. early final week, day before, on the day
Mrs Robertson Cake stall	We would be HUGELY grateful to any family able to bake us a cake for our stall (and send this along l on Friday 13 th). Can you help?? Also someone to help with pricing and setting up the stall Selling cakes on the day (or part thereof)	Friday afternoon 1:30pm and Saturday Morning 8:00 - 9:00 Saturday hour slots 9:00 -10:00 10:00-11:00 etc
Mr Schuster Baby, toddler clothes stall	Can you help with sorting and pricing of clothes into various types and sizes	1-2 days before
Mrs Milicich White Elephant	Parents to help bring, sort, price white elephant material, bring bags and newspaper for wrapping.	Early final week, day before to price and set up??? on day to man store, complete set up etc.
Mrs Burgin Plants and outdoor stuff	Require bags Need help sorting products and pricing Help required to set up on the morning	on going Day before from first thing I guess On the 14th from whatever time people are required (I think Rach R said

	Help required during the day to help manage the stall	yesterday that at Maunu it is usually from 7 ish onwards) as per the times of the gala
Mrs Marvin Books and magazines	Assistance needed with: sorting, pricing and selling books and magazines.	Day before and on the day.
Miss Griffin Café		Day before and on the day Rostered adult to help selling goods
Miss Blundell Electrical items	Pricing items Cash Register Organising and setting up	Early final week On the day On the day
Miss Bevin Men's and women's clothing	Parents to help sort, price and fold clothing. The number helpers required depends on the number of items collected.	To start sorting and pricing items a week before and continue doing this up until the day before the Gala. To set up the men's and women's clothing stall in the hall on Friday, this may take all of Friday.

A reminder

... to check out the senior school camp photos and activities on seniorschoolcamp2015.blogspot.com

National Standards Results

Our National Standards results are available for anyone interested in viewing these. If you would like a copy please drop by to see Kevin.

Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 26 February

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) were sent home last week. If you did not receive a consent, please contact the office early next week.

Parents are asked to ensure that children attending this event (selected from previous performance - and your input) bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow)



Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are still available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2015 swimming season. Please advise the school office of any users accessing the pool without a key.

Pool Users

If using the pool after school hours, please resist the temptation to supervise other people's children in the pool, unless their parents have specifically asked you to do so .. there are a number legal (and safety) reasons for this. Thanks.

School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after first or before final bell, please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

Homework ... we are now going to call this "Home Learning" (Miss Griffins idea)

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).

School Sponsors sought for 2015

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact Mary Finlayson 4370441 or 0274525398.



Inhalers

Please note that inhalers (and in fact all medications) must be kept in the school office and not in children's bags. This way we can monitor and record usage and advise you of any concerns.

So ... if your child needs an inhaler (or medication), please drop this medication (named clearly) in to the school office next week.

Term Headlice Inspection

This weeks inspection did not take place because we had insufficient parents to help with the inspection. If you think you can help (takes only 1.5 hrs on one day a term) please give Donna a call on Tuesday. We do find these inspections help us keep on top of the problem and are keen to see these inspections continue if possible.

School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

Thank you to those who have paid contributions and fees for 2015. While the contributions are voluntary, they do play a very important part in closing our funding gap. Out of fairness to others the board encourages all families to pay their contribution please. **If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your involvement.

Creating optimal conditions for learning (a final reminder)

Children benefit from .. **drinking plenty of water** (water bottles each day please) ... **a good night's sleep.** .. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch** ... **and parents who get involved.** You have all made a fantastic start!

Consultation on the Health Curriculum

Schools are required to consult with their community on the delivery of the Health Curriculum. In a forthcoming newsletter we will share key elements of our approach with you. So watch this space.

Finally

This week we spoke to children about the amazing things that happen when we attend to some of the "smaller" things. Currently we are encouraging the more routine use of please, thank you and excuse me around the school, as well as random acts of kindness to others. You might also like to make these a special focus at home. You might also like to ask your children to tell you the New York story we shared with them at assembly this week .. hopefully they can remember this!

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them

Sumpter Baughen

Chartered Accountants

Ph 09 438 3939

Email: sarahk@sumpters.co.nz

www.sumpters.co.nz

Lost Togs

Black and silver shorts, orange beach towel, rash shirt - black and silver. Left in the swimming pool changing room Thursday 5th Feb. If your child has taken it home by mistake could you please return to Room 10 or the office.

Community Notices

Free To Good Home - 2 hens & 1 rooster. Collect from Matarau Rd. Ali 4335000 0273190273.

Hikurangi Rugby Rally Day - If you would like to play rugby this season come down to our clubrooms on Saturday 21 February, 10am-12 to register. Contact Kasey on 021542426 if you have any queries.

Mid Northern Hockey - is looking for any Year 7 & 8's that want to play hockey this season. Please phone Kim on 0275339973 or 4339973.

Drama And Voice Academy Classes - In Whangarei Mondays, Tuesdays and Bream Bay on Wednesdays from ages 5 - teens. Theatre games, Characterisation, Storytelling, Devising etc. Speech NZ Exams and Festival Performance offered. For more info or to enroll go to www.makingascene.co.nz

Community Education - Whangarei

Course Name: Help Your Child to Learn

Course Price: FREE

Course Date: Starts Tuesday 3 March

Course Description: Is your child struggling to learn? Having difficulty at school? Want some helpful strategies to assist your child? The way your child learns best depends on many factors including age, learning style and personality. This short course gives a general overview of how children learn and what can prevent academic/school learning from being straightforward. The course will be facilitated by an experienced tutor and will include hand-outs plus hands-on activities to strengthen reading, writing and maths skills. Learn ways to provide support at home including games to make learning fun. Suitable for parents/caregivers with children aged from 7 - 11 years. Join this course today and help your child to learn!

Tutor: Sheryn Comrie

Course Length: 3 weeks

Course Time: 6.30-8.30pm

BJ's Homebased Childcare Services are looking for

- Educators to work with and care for children in their home.
- Children to be placed in Homebased care.

The benefits of Homebased care offers

- Quality teacher/child ratio of 1:4
- Locations to suit your needs throughout Northland
- Continual guidance and support from registered teachers
- Educational learning in a homely environment that meets all ministry regulations,
- Planned weekly outings and social events.
- Through BJ's parents can access WINZ subsidy, ECE payments, and a 3-5 yrs school readiness programme - Magic Caterpillar.



Grace bungee jumping off the Harbour Bridge while on Senior School Camp

